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short racemes above, and long leafy branches tipped with inflorescence below, one from each old leaf-axil; more often, the stem killing back, two or more leafy fruit-branches from the axils of each old leaf. Terminal racemes two to four inches long, very pubescent and glandular, about 10-fruited on short pedicels subtended by small bracts and with a few small leaves at the base. No pure leaf-branches yet observed. The branches below four to eight inches long with 3-foliolate leaves. Leaflets broad, yellow-green, rounded at the base, short-pointed, rather coarsely serrate-dentate, hairy above and pubescent below. Axis seldom terete, prickles few and weak, very pubescent and glandular. Inflorescence short, often many of the six to ten pedicels subtended by large bracts or small unifoliate leaves. Flowers from one to one and one-fourth inch broad, petals long-oval, one-half as wide as long. Fruit small, cylindric, one-fourth to three-eighths inch long, black and edible, drupelets rather large, often but few ripening. Flowers the middle of June, fruit ripe early in August. Very little good fruit.

Type station, Townshend, Windham County, Vermont, in the immediate neighborhood of the brick school house situated near the residence of Deacon J. O. Follett and in his lot adjoining.

I first noticed this plant July 5, 1902, and have repeatedly visited the type station. Plants quite similar to these grow in three other places in Townshend and I have one station on Bemis Hill in Athens, Vt., a few miles distant. Another station is on Signal Hill, Alstead, N. H. The plants at all these stations differ a little from each other, but even at the type station a difference in soil and surroundings causes a considerable variation. This is to be expected nearly everywhere in the rose family.

WESTMINSTER, VERMONT.

## THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The following graphic and interesting account of a most lamentable event was written with no expectation of seeing it in print, but its author, Miss Eastwood, has kindly consented to its publication, with modest apologies for its personal tone. The author has not had the opportunity of reading proof. [ED.]

2421 RIDGE ROAD, BERKELEY, CAL.  
April 28, 1906.

MY DEAR DR. BRITTON :

I was deeply touched by your ready expression of sympathy and offer of help. While we are not cast down, we need it all. No words can give you an idea of the ruin and desolation of our city. I was over yesterday for the first time since I left April 19 late in the afternoon.

I managed to save most of the types but had very little time, not more than half an hour. Having them in a case by themselves was their salvation. They, together with the records of the Academy, are at Fort Mason, where I took them for safety. I don't know why it was left to me to take care of these precious relics except that I took the responsibility.

The earthquake occurred about 5.15 A. M. and I was down before 6.30. The outer door was padlocked and I could not get in but the people in the store next door were there and I knew that there was a door of communication so I had them let me in. It was necessary to climb over a lot of fallen bricks to reach the staircase of the front building but it was not impossible. I went to the sixth floor where the bridge connected the two parts of the building but it was gone and I could not fly across, so as there seemed to be nobody anywhere around I had to go back. Then I walked up and down the street hoping to see some one to help me. A young man, Robert Porter, one of my friends, hailed me and I told him my story. We went back and again went through the store. By this time, Mr. Loomis, the director of the museum, Miss Hyde, the acting librarian, Mrs. Newell, my assistant, had come and they had opened the door of the museum, so we could get in over the wreck of the marble staircase at the main entrance. We had to climb up the staircase to the sixth floor mainly by the iron banisters which seemed to be firm. I got out the bundles and Porter tied them up. The Harkness types were in boxes labelled alphabetically and I could be sure that I had every box. The case containing them had been thrown down on its face, and the boxes were somewhat scattered. I could not save a book. We lowered the things down by string doubled to the floor of the museum six stories below and I was there to receive them. I remembered the saxifrage types had not been put away as I had left them out so as to send pieces to you and I went back after them. When we reached the street the building next door was on fire and the soldiers had come to keep people from crossing the street or get-

ting into the buildings. I rushed over to a safe deposit bank opposite where I had a box to beg them to take our stuff but there was a line of men half a block long who were there for their money and it was hopeless. When I went back I had to have permission of the officer in charge.

Porter went to see if he could find an express wagon or automobile. We had to carry all the things across Market street as no vehicles were permitted on the street. I seemed to be the only one with any ready cash. I asked how much would the cost be to take the stuff to where I lived. When the man said it would be a big price my heart sank as I had only fourteen dollars. But he charged only three and I was so grateful that I gave him four.

I had the janitor with me on the wagon and he helped me get the things into the front hall where they were all day. Towards evening I became uneasy and decided to take them to a friend's house on Russian Hill, which seemed a safe place. Some of my young men friends helped me and we carried them, making several trips. It was impossible at this time to get any kind of a conveyance without paying a big sum down. I went back to my home but could not sleep though the fire was still distant. I picked up a few things and packed them so as to carry some personal belongings. We could only take what we could carry in our hands. Mr. Worcester, my chief friend on Russian Hill, took the things into his house. He also told me that I could have them taken to Fort Mason with some very valuable paintings and books next day if there seemed to be any danger. Well, they went next day and that night there was fire raging all around that hill and dynamite almost shot those who stayed into the air, but there were a few houses saved on that hill and Mr. Worcester's is one of them.

The greatest loss to the city is the loss of all libraries and the scientific collections. Buildings can be replaced but these never can be.

I do not intend to give up but am making plans already what to do. I may come East in the fall and see how you do things and get ideas. I never had time before and now I have not much money but I am not destitute and am much better off than a great many.

There was never any panic and you see no signs of repining. The hard time is to come.

I was taken in by lovely people whom I had never met and am with them yet. It is best not to think of what is lost but of what is saved and best of all to think of the kindness of those

dear friends who give us help and sympathy. Every one is deeply grateful for the help that is coming to us from everywhere.

I had a lot of fine duplicates ready to send you but they are all gone.

Gratefully yours,

ALICE EASTWOOD.

### SHORTER NOTES

***Ranunculus sicaeformis*** Mackenzie & Bush, sp. nov. Perennial, with thickish, but not tuberous roots, the stems at first erect, but in age ascending or reclining; runners not seen; whole plant very strongly whitish or yellowish hispid-pubescent: lower leaves with petioles 20–25 cm. long, the blades 3-divided, the divisions long-stalked, 3-cleft and irregularly and sharply incised-serrate, the segments broad; stem leaves similar, but smaller: flowers on peduncles 3–10 cm. long; sepals 5, strongly hispid, ovate-lanceolate, 6 mm. long: petals 5, yellow, obovate, 10–12 mm. long: stamens numerous: head of fruit globose, the receptacle strongly pubescent: achenes obovate-cuneate, the margin sharp and thick, terminating in a very stout, straight or slightly curved dagger-shaped beak as long as the body, the whole 6 mm. long.

Readily distinguished from *R. septentrionalis* Poir., its nearest relative, by the very hispid stems, more strongly pubescent receptacle, and the very stout beak of the achene.

The type, collected by myself (*no. 95*) at Buckner, Jackson County, Missouri, on May 30, 1898, growing in low, wet prairies, is in my private herbarium. Co-types are in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden, and in the herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden. The only other specimen seen is one collected June 7, 1886, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, by "O. W. O.," distributed from the herbarium of the University of Minnesota, and now in the Columbia College herbarium.

K. K. MACKENZIE.

A NOTE UPON *IPOMOEA CUNEIFOLIA* A. GRAY.—The rarest and least known species of *Ipomoea* in the United States is undoubtedly *I. cuneifolia*, but unfortunately this very appropriate name given to it by Asa Gray is a homonym.